

PROVO

A little band of 30 families was chosen to settle Provo and they arrived late in March, 1849; they immediately started to build Fort Utah. The stockade was 14 feet high with log houses inside. There was a high place fixed in the center called a bastian, on which was placed a cannon. The fort was about twenty by forty rods. The logs for the fort came from Box Elder Island, a 40 acre patch of land between two channels of Provo River. This was about a mile west of the fort. Pioneers preferred Box Elder to Cottonwood for building because of greater durability. 8, p. 52.

Agriculture was the main reason for choosing this location. There was fertile soil and plenty of water.

Wheat was hauled to the Neff Mill in Salt Lake Valley for grinding into flour until 1850. The first wheat crop raised in the valley belonged to Peter W. Conover. He threshed it with a flail, cleaning it with the wind.

Since bread is the staff of life lets consider a few ways bread was made.

When there was no way to grind the grain, some people boiled wheat and potatoes together and ate it in place of bread.

Later, when flour mills were built there was the problem of leaven. Some people gathered saleratus. Sometimes it was dried and powdered like soda; and sometimes it was put into water and boiled. When it was boiled sediment went to the bottom and scum on top, with a clear liquid in the middle. The clear liquid was the part they used.

4th Grade Social Studies, Alpine School District

Another way was called "Salt Rising Bread." A sponge was made out of a quart of water, a little salt and flour, and then kept until foamy; then neighbors were notified to come and get a start. It was rather hard to start.

Laws for the community were soon put into effect; fines for gambling with Indians, etc. For protection against Indians a militia was organized on Independence Day, with Major Jefferson Hunt of the Mormon Battalion in command. Sixty men of all ages made up the company.

One day a tragedy happened in the fort. Two men demonstrating use of the cannon up on the bastion were reloading the cannon after it had been fired and they failed to swab out the bore to insure against danger of remaining sparks. While tamping the powder it exploded and blew the men half way to the gate. The one died instantly but the other was still alive, so one man rode 120 miles over rough country in 20 hours changing horses, and got a doctor. The left arm was amputated between the elbow and wrist but his life was spared and he later taught school.

Later Brigham Young visited the settlement and it was decided to build a town about two miles southeast of the fort, a mile square, with blocks of four acres, a chapel, school houses and streets 5 rods wide.

8, pp. 53-56.

Some emigrants going to California in 1849 needed fresh horses and having camped at Provo they traded guns and ammunition to Indians for things they wanted. This brought trouble and terminated in the Provo Indian War. When pioneers went up the Provo River for wood they were often shot at

with arrows; and sometimes the Fort cannon was fired to warn the Indians against such things but with new weapons the Indians fortified themselves in Provo canyon and after stealing some grain and corn a show-down seemed certain. Fifty men under command of Captain George D. Grant came down from Salt Lake City to help the pioneers, and these with Captain Conovers' company of infantry attacked the fortified Indians on the Provo River. After two days of fighting 40 Utes had been killed and the rest fled. About 18 whites were wounded and young Joseph Higbee was killed. A room within the fort was used as a hospital.

Provo colony narrowly escaped massacre by Walker's band of Indians in 1850. He had been to California and returned with a lot of stolen horses. In the meantime the pioneers had built a second fort at the place now called Sowiette Park in Provo. Walker camped at Provo with his braves. Sowiette also had his warriors here and together they numbered about 400 indians.

Walker requested the young men of Provo to help him fight snakes, but the request was denied so he planned a massacre. During the night Sowiette revealed the plan to Isaac Higbee and said he would help defend the fort.

Sowiette then told Walker that if he attacked the fort he would also have to fight Sowiette and his warriors. This warning alone saved the community, and much honor should be given to this old King of the Utes.

William Lemon began the survey of Provo in the summer of 1850. The first stake was placed in the center of what was to be the public square - now called Pioneer Park.

In 1852 George Albert Smith was appointed by Brigham Young to preside over the saints in Utah County.

After the Walker War of 1852-55 there was no more need for a fort wall and remnants have since been torn down.

The pioneers also had to battle sickness, heavy snow, grasshoppers, etc., but much encouragement came after their bumper crops in 1857 which many said was the best since arrival in Utah. 8, pp. 57-61.

CEDAR FORT

By legislative act and approved by Brigham Young in 1856, the inhabitants of Cedar Valley were organized as a county out of Utah Territory, with Cedar Valley as the county seat.

The area was evacuated twice during and after the Walker War, at which time most of the settlers moved to Lehi.

Cedar Valley is bordered on the North by low hills, known as Tickville Hills. It is bordered on the west by the Oquirrh Mountains and Rush Valley. On the south by East Tintic Mountains and on the East by the low Lake mountains. The valley is about 30 miles long and about 6 miles wide, running north and south.

August 8, 1854 a tragic incident took place; two teen-age boys went to Pole Canyon for a load of poles, and were killed by Indians. Their mutilated bodies were found early the next day.



